

**House File 2232 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2232

BY WOLFE

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act creating a task force on the awarding of joint physical  
2 care in child custody proceedings.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. TASK FORCE — AWARD OF JOINT PHYSICAL CARE.

2 1. The state court administrator shall convene a task force  
3 to review the outcomes of contested child custody proceedings  
4 in the state and the awarding of joint physical care. The  
5 task force shall consider the positive and negative impacts  
6 on parents and children of awarding joint physical care, the  
7 rationale of the court in awarding or failing to award joint  
8 physical care, and the experiences of other jurisdictions in  
9 awarding joint physical care. The study shall consider data,  
10 information, case law, and other input from academic, research,  
11 legal, and other sources and professionals.

12 2. In appointing members to the task force, the state  
13 court administrator shall ensure that the viewpoint of parent  
14 advocacy groups, child advocacy groups, academics, policy  
15 analysts, judges, court administrators, attorneys, domestic  
16 violence advocates, citizen members who are not associated with  
17 a parent or child advocacy group, appropriate departments, and  
18 other interested parties are represented.

19 3. The state court administrator shall submit a report  
20 to the general assembly on the results of the task force's  
21 evaluation of the awarding of joint physical care, the  
22 review of the experiences of other jurisdictions, and the  
23 recommendations of the task force no later than December 15,  
24 2012.

25 EXPLANATION

26 This bill directs the state court administrator to convene a  
27 task force to review the outcomes of contested child custody  
28 proceedings and the awarding of joint physical care. The  
29 task force is to consider the positive and negative impacts  
30 on parents and children of awarding joint physical care, the  
31 rationale of the court in awarding or failing to award joint  
32 physical care in particular cases, and the experiences of other  
33 jurisdictions in awarding joint physical care. The study is  
34 to consider data, information, case law, and other input from  
35 academic, research, legal, and other sources and professionals.

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1 The bill directs the state court administrator, in appointing  
2 members to the task force, to ensure that varied viewpoints  
3 are represented. The state court administrator is to submit  
4 a report to the general assembly on the results of the task  
5 force's evaluation of the awarding of joint physical care,  
6 the review of the experiences of other jurisdictions, and the  
7 recommendations of the task force no later than December 15,  
8 2012.